Strategic Foresight for Foreign Policy Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In an increasingly complex and interconnected global landscape, foreign policy practitioners can't rely on traditional reactive approaches. **Strategic foresight** has emerged as a critical discipline, offering a proactive and **systematic framework** for navigating **geopolitical uncertainty**. This training course moves beyond conventional analysis to equip professionals with the tools and mindsets needed to **anticipate emerging trends**, **assess complex risks**, and **shape preferred future scenarios**. By integrating foresight into foreign policy, we can enhance **resilience**, **adaptability**, and **long-term strategic thinking** in the face of accelerating change and global challenges.

Strategic Foresight for Foreign Policy Training Course will provide a practical, hands-on learning experience, leveraging a blend of theoretical frameworks and **real-world case studies**. Participants will learn to conduct **horizon scanning**, develop **plausible scenarios**, and translate these insights into actionable policy recommendations. The goal is to cultivate a **future-ready** mindset, empowering diplomats, analysts, and policymakers to move from crisis management to **proactive governance**, building more effective and **robust foreign policies** that can withstand future shocks and seize new opportunities.

Programme Curriculum

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Course Duration

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Course Objectives

- **Master** the foundational principles and methodologies of strategic foresight.
- **Conduct** comprehensive **horizon scanning** to identify weak signals and emerging issues.
- **Analyze megatrends** and **drivers of change** across political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal (PESTEL) domains.
- **Design** and develop **plausible future scenarios** and narratives.
- **Translate** scenario insights into **actionable policy recommendations**.
- **Integrate** foresight practices into existing **foreign policy decision-making processes**.
- **Apply systems thinking** to understand complex, interconnected global challenges.
- **Identify** and mitigate cognitive biases in **future-oriented thinking**.
- **Enhance anticipatory governance** capabilities within diplomatic institutions.
- **Develop resilient strategies** for navigating a turbulent, uncertain, novel, and ambiguous (TUNA) world.
- **Facilitate** multi-stakeholder workshops and **strategic conversations** about the future.
- **Measure** the impact and effectiveness of foresight initiatives.
- **Utilize** foresight as a tool for **public diplomacy** and international cooperation.

Organizational Benefits

- Organizations can better prepare for and respond to **geopolitical shocks** and **global disruptions**.
- Shifts from a reactive, crisis-driven approach to a **proactive, long-term strategic posture**.
- Provides a more robust evidence base for strategic decisions by accounting for a range of **plausible futures**.
- Helps identify **emerging opportunities** and risks that may not be apparent through traditional analysis.
- Fosters a shared understanding of future challenges and promotes collaboration across different departments and agencies.
- Develops **future-ready leaders** who are comfortable with ambiguity and can guide their teams through uncertainty.
- Demonstrates a commitment to **forward-thinking governance** and strengthens an organization's credibility on the global stage.

Target Audience

- Diplomats and Foreign Service Officers
- Government Officials in Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade
- Intelligence and Security Analysts

- International Organization Staff (e.g., UN, EU, NATO)
- Policy Advisors and Strategists
- Defense and Military Planners
- NGO and Think Tank Professionals working on global issues
- Senior Managers and Leaders in public administration and multinational corporations with a focus on international affairs

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations of Strategic Foresight

- Introduction to **futures thinking** and its role in foreign policy.
- Distinguishing between forecasting, prediction, and **foresight**.
- The **futures cone**: a framework for understanding possible, plausible, and preferred futures.
- Identifying and overcoming cognitive biases in future analysis.
- Case Study: The evolution of diplomatic practices in response to technological disruption.

Module 2: Horizon Scanning & Trend Analysis

- Techniques for conducting systematic **horizon scanning** to detect early signals of change.
- Using the PESTEL framework to categorize and analyze **drivers of change**.
- Identifying and assessing **megatrends** and their global impact.
- Filtering weak signals from noise and creating an "issues radar."
- Case Study: Scanning for signals of a new global power dynamic in the Indo-Pacific.

Module 3: Scenario Planning & Narrative Development

- The principles of **scenario planning** and its application in foreign policy.
- Step-by-step methodology for building a small set of **plausible scenarios**.
- Developing compelling narratives for each scenario to aid in communication and understanding.
- Using scenarios for **risk assessment** and opportunity identification.
- Case Study: Creating scenarios for the future of international cooperation on climate change.

Module 4: From Scenarios to Strategy

- Methods for **"windtunneling"** or stress-testing existing policies and strategies against future scenarios.
- Developing **robust strategies** that are effective across multiple plausible futures.
- Identifying **"no-regret" moves** and **"hedge" actions**.
- Creating an **"Action Portfolio"** based on scenario insights.
- Case Study: Stress-testing a national security strategy against scenarios of cyber warfare.

Module 5: Integrating Foresight into Policy & Governance

- Best practices for embedding strategic foresight capabilities within government institutions.
- Establishing a **"foresight unit"** and fostering a **"culture of anticipation."**
- Communicating foresight insights to senior leaders and stakeholders.
- Designing and facilitating **foresight workshops** and **strategic conversations**.
- Case Study: The role of foresight in the UN's "Our Common Agenda" and other international initiatives.

Module 6: Public Diplomacy and Foresight

- Using foresight as a tool for **public diplomacy** and external communication.

- Engaging international partners and civil society in **future-oriented dialogues**.
- Building coalitions for a preferred future.
- The role of foresight in shaping national identity and global narratives.
- Case Study: A diplomatic mission using foresight to shape a global discourse on emerging technologies like AI.

Module 7: Geopolitical Risk and Strategic Foresight

- Advanced techniques for identifying and assessing **geopolitical risks**.
- Analyzing the interplay of economic, social, and technological risks.
- Foresight for **conflict prevention** and management.
- Using foresight to anticipate and prepare for **"wild card"** events and low-probability, high-impact disruptions.
- Case Study: Using foresight to prepare for a pandemic or a global supply chain crisis.

Module 8: Ethical Considerations and the Future of Foreign Policy

- Addressing the ethical implications of using foresight in foreign policy.
- The role of human agency in **shaping the future**.
- Foresight for creating more equitable and sustainable global systems.
- The future of diplomacy and the skills required for the next generation of diplomats.
- Case Study: Debating the ethical dilemmas of using foresight to manage future global migrations.

Training Methodology

This program utilizes an **interactive, hands-on, and participatory** training methodology. The approach combines theoretical learning with practical application to ensure that participants not only understand the concepts but can also apply the tools effectively.

- **Interactive Presentations & Lectures**: Concise delivery of core concepts and frameworks.
- **Hands-on Exercises & Group Projects**: Participants work in small groups on real-world case studies to apply foresight tools like **horizon scanning** and **scenario building**.
- **Case Study Analysis**: Deep dives into historical and current events to understand the successes and failures of strategic planning.
- **Foresight Toolkits**: Practical guides and templates for participants to use in their professional roles.
- **Expert Panel Discussions**: Insights from leading practitioners and academics in the field of **strategic foresight** and foreign policy.
- **Facilitated Peer-to-Peer Learning**: Opportunities for participants to share experiences, challenges, and best practices.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

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